

tipped her handsomely, and I hope she used that money at some time to make her trip across to the free world.

When we went through Checkpoint Charlie, I gave the guard there—and it was one of the most ominous moments that I've experienced seeing a combination of a police person, a border patrol person, a German—and I say that in all the best respect to Germans, just a characterization thereof, the same for police and border guards—and a communist checking you through Checkpoint Charlie. It was rather stern and official-like and intimidating. I slipped him an Elvis Presley swizzle stick, which he kind of looked askance and took his hand and got it into his hand and stuck it in his pocket and never moved his eyes from looking forward. I was happy to pass Elvis along.

While I agree with the gentleman who spoke earlier about President Reagan and some of the things he did in spending to help defeat the Soviet Union and bring down that wall, a lot of what brought down that wall was the people and their yearning for freedom, which was expressed through Radio Free Europe and other manners in which the German youth heard American music and saw American life. They saw blue jeans and they heard rock and roll, they heard Elvis, they heard the Beatles, they heard all kinds of people. Eventually that wall came down and they heard Pink Floyd; Pink Floyd played and the world listened and the wall came down.

When I returned years later to Berlin, I drove through the Brandenburg Gate, which I don't think I was supposed to, but I did. And that was fun, I could do it, it was freedom.

I thought back upon the last time I had been in East Berlin and you couldn't do anything; it was such an ominous state. East Berlin now is a fun, thriving, great place with great restaurants and art scenes and freedom and people. It has really become more happening than the KuDAM or Kreuzberg or the other areas in the West which are happening as well. But it was a great day when that wall came down.

The Newseum has three or four portions of the wall here in Washington. I went there last week. I would encourage everybody, Mr. Speaker, to go to the Newseum, which is a great museum. It's a museum about history in America and the world, not just the news media, but about freedom. The reason they've got the Berlin Wall there is because of that freedom in the First Amendment, the freedom of press, the freedom of expression, and the freedom of association. You can learn about that and value it.

You look at that wall and you see pictures of the people who died trying to get across, and coming up with ways to tunnel their way under the wall or to leap or to create some type of flying machines, and all the different ways, being inside cars or under cars and taken to freedom. Many died, some

made it. It's a great tribute to people's yearnings for freedom and their desires to overcome the barriers put before them by repressive regimes.

So I wanted to speak today because that was a momentous occasion in my life to see the Berlin Wall, to go into East Berlin and see the difference between our type of government and the Soviet repression, and then to go back later and see the joy that is now in East Berlin and the freedom that has been allowed to flourish.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing the resolution, I thank the lady for bringing the resolution, and I encourage everybody to go to the Newseum and to cherish their freedom.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, just to close on our side, I thank my good friend, the esteemed chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. BERMAN, for introducing this resolution.

As important as it is to pass feel-good resolutions, I think that this resolution would have been strengthened if we would have talked about the difficult realities that we are confronting now with Russia and other states that are threatening the stability and the democracy and the integrity of those countries who fought long and hard for their independence, for their freedom, and for their democracy.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would also echo the words of the gentlelady from Florida and all of those who spoke on the relevant issue this evening of the resolution which honors the incredible accomplishments that transpired in 1989, the fall of the wall, the opening of the gate, and the spirit of freedom that blew through Eastern Europe.

And it was not the result of one individual or one group of people. Hundreds of thousands of people yearned and thirsted for freedom for decades, and it finally came in the great fruition of that physical breaking down of that wall.

We heard tonight about the memory of Ronald Reagan, and we are reminded of what a great role he played in ordering Mr. Gorbachev to open the gate and tear down the wall. I would close by only reminding all of those in this Chamber tonight that I think if he were here, Ronald Reagan would be a little disappointed in those who come in this great august body at a time that we are honoring such a momentous occasion in the history of our world and use it to discuss things, though important, not relevant, and to seem to do so for political advantage rather than honoring the memory of those who lost their lives fighting and questing for freedom. They are an inspiration to all of us, and they should be for all time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 892.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JORDAN

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 833) honoring the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the 10th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 833

Whereas the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan achieved independence on May 25, 1946;

Whereas the United States recognized Jordan as an independent state in a White House announcement on January 31, 1949;

Whereas diplomatic relations and the American Legation in Jordan were established on February 18, 1949, when United States diplomat Wells Stabler presented his credentials as Chargé d'Affaires in Amman;

Whereas for 60 years, the United States and Jordan have enjoyed a close relationship, spanning a gamut of issues from the search for peace in the Middle East, the socioeconomic development of the Jordanian people, and the threat to both posed by al Qaeda and other foreign terrorist organizations;

Whereas King Hussein charted a moderate path for his country during his many years on the throne;

Whereas the United States has been Jordan's strongest international partner for over 50 years;

Whereas throughout his reign, King Hussein looked for opportunities to realize his dream of a more peaceful Middle East by working to solve intra-Arab disputes and engaging with successive Israeli Prime Ministers in the search for peace;

Whereas King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the historic Jordan-Israel peace treaty in 1994, ending nearly 50 years of a formal state of war between the neighboring countries;

Whereas the United States lost a close friend and a crucial partner when King Hussein passed away in 1999;

Whereas King Hussein was succeeded by his son, King Abdullah II, who has continued his father's work to improve the lives of the Jordanian people while also seeking to bring peace to the region;

Whereas in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Jordan has been an instrumental partner in the fight against al Qaeda, has provided crucial assistance in Iraq, and has coped with the responsibility of hosting more than a half-million Iraqi refugees, a total equal to roughly 10 percent of Jordan's population;

Whereas King Abdullah II has been a leading Arab voice in trying to reaffirm that, as stated in his 2004 Amman Message, "True Islam forbids wanton aggression and terrorism, [and] enjoins freedom of religion, peace, justice and good-will to non-Muslims.,"

Whereas in November 2005, al Qaeda terrorists struck three hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 individuals—including four Americans—and wounding 115, and uniting the people of Jordan and the United States in grief; and

Whereas King Abdullah II begins his second decade on the Jordanian throne by redoubling his efforts for peace in the region as the Jordan-United States partnership enters its seventh decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 60th anniversary of the close relationship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

(2) expresses its profound admiration and gratitude for the friendship of the Jordanian people;

(3) congratulates His Majesty King Abdullah II on 10 years of enlightened and progressive rule; and

(4) shares the hope of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Jordanian people for a more peaceful and free Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 833, which honors the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the 10th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Abdullah II. I would like to thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), for introducing this important measure.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mr. Speaker, is a strong ally and a great friend of the United States. Although our two nations have never been linked by a formal treaty, we have cooperated for decades on a variety of regional and international issues. In particular, the United States and Jordan have worked together to support our commitment to peace, sta-

bility, moderation, and modernization in the Middle East.

With economic and military assistance, a free trade agreement, and close political cooperation, the United States has helped Jordan overcome the vulnerabilities it naturally faces as a result of its small size and lack of natural resources.

Jordan's geographic position, wedged among Israel, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, has sometimes made it the object of the strategic designs of more powerful neighbors; but it has also given moderate Jordan a strategically critical role as a buffer among those states. And its 15-year-old peace treaty with Israel has proven to be durable and an important force for regional stability.

Jordan is a key partner in fighting international terrorism. Its security organizations are considered among the best informed and most adept in the region. For example, Jordanian intelligence reportedly played a role in assisting U.S. forces in killing Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the fugitive Jordanian terrorist mastermind who headed the al Qaeda organization in Iraq until his death in 2006.

Jordan's moderate and pro-Western policies have made it at times a preferred target of regional terrorist groups. On November 9, 2005, bombings at three Western-owned hotels in Amman killed 58 people and seriously wounded approximately 100 others. The terrorist organization al Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility for this act. I am certain the United States will continue to stand with Jordan in its fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, in August, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hosted Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh in Washington. In her remarks following their meeting, Secretary Clinton said that "after six decades of relations our partnership has proved both durable and dynamic. We will continue to work together in areas ranging from assistance with education, health care, water programs, to border security, good governance, and regional security." I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Congress is working alongside the Obama administration to achieve those goals.

King Abdullah has won the admiration of many of us for his energetic and hands-on style of governing and for his commonsense approach to regional relations. He is a true friend of the United States and a true voice of moderation in an increasingly treacherous region.

I have always found King Abdullah to be a sincere and insightful interlocutor as well as a strong spokesman for Jordan's interests. I congratulate him on the 10th anniversary of his accession to the Jordanian throne, and I wish him many successful years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the author of this resolution, ADAM SCHIFF, along with Representatives CHARLES BOUSTANY, BRIAN BAIRD,

and JEFF FORTENBERRY for their leadership in directing the Congressional Jordanian Caucus. Such bipartisan cooperation can only strengthen U.S.-Jordanian bilateral relations.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 833, and I encourage all my colleagues to do likewise.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for the past six decades, Jordan has been a key U.S. ally in an unstable region where we have many vital interests and face many challenges. We have longstanding cooperation in a variety of fields, from security, to governance, to education, to health care, to water; and we hope that such cooperation will only increase in the years ahead.

In this regard, America has had true partners in Amman. Nothing illustrates this more than the strength of the 1994 peace treaty that the late King Hussein concluded with the Jewish democratic State of Israel. By condemning violent extremism and by making an open and true peace with Israel, King Hussein set a standard by which other Arab and Muslim leaders should follow. In the past 15 years of peace between Jordan and Israel, they might not have been perfect, but they have been slowly building upon a foundation in which much cooperation is possible in the future.

Jordan has also demonstrated to other nations the benefits of embracing democratic reforms and principles. Fortunately, King Hussein's son and successor, King Abdullah, has continued on a path for peace, cooperation, and reform during his past decade on the throne. Under an election law passed in February of 2007, the Jordanians went to the polls in late July of 2007 to elect for the first time the mayors and councils of every city and town in their country.

□ 1815

In November of 2007, Jordan held its fifth set of elections for Parliament since 1989. Jordan has also recognized that democracy is more than just elections. The Jordanian Government has taken steps to establish the rule of law, to build civil society, to build strong institutions, and to broaden political participation to meaningfully engage citizens from all walks of life.

One example of this commitment was the decision by the government to lower the voting age from 19 to 18 and to establish mechanisms to ensure adequate female representation to municipal councils. In the most recent parliamentary elections, seven females won public office. I hope that these steps will lead to further reforms and to more political participation.

King Abdullah, himself, has courageously spoken out and has led the way for reform. As King Abdullah has stated, "We in Jordan, and many others

throughout the Middle East, are working hard to create a civic environment in which our people will thrive.

"The basic requirement is an inclusive, democratic, civil society—one that guarantees rights, delegates responsibilities, honors merit, and rewards achievement."

Jordan has also demonstrated strong support for the fledgling democracy in Iraq. Last year, King Abdullah was the first Arab leader to visit Iraq since the establishment of democracy in that country. Jordan has also become the first country to appoint an Ambassador to Baghdad since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Jordan does, indeed, serve as a model for other nations in the region. It deserves our friendship and our encouragement, and its people deserve continued progress in political and economic reforms. Therefore, I strongly support House Resolution 833, which commemorates 60 years of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the United States, as well as the 10th anniversary of the accession to the throne of King Abdullah. It also expresses our profound admiration and gratitude for the friendship of the people of Jordan and shares their hope, and that of King Abdullah's, for a more peaceful Middle East.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I thank my dear friend, the distinguished colleague from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for introducing it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman from the Foreign Affairs Committee, for bringing this resolution to the floor. I am also grateful to the members of the committee and to others who have cosponsored it.

Today, we celebrate one of America's strongest alliances in one of the world's most unsettled regions. For decades, the United States and Jordan have been friends and allies. Today, that friendship finds renewed expression in this resolution which commemorates the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Jordan and the 10th anniversary of King Abdullah's accession to the throne.

The cornerstones of that friendship are a mutual desire for peace in the region and a belief that the Arab and Muslim world must resist extremism. Jordan has been a key player in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinian people, a partner in the fight against al Qaeda, and an important part of the struggle for the soul of Islam. With its lengthy border with Israel and its majority Palestinian population, Jordan has long been a catalyst for peace in the region.

King Hussein, the current King's father, engaged in decades of quiet diplo-

macy with Israel—an effort that bore fruit in 1994 with the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty. King Abdullah has continued his father's quest for peace and has been a tireless advocate for a better future for all the peoples of the region.

King Abdullah's 10 years on the throne have been shaped primarily by Jordan's response to the 9/11 attacks and the Iraq war, and the Jordanian-American partnership has been strengthened in the 8 years since the attacks on New York and Washington.

Jordan has been an important ally in the fight against al Qaeda, but the steadfastness has carried a heavy price. Four years ago this month, al Qaeda terrorists struck three hotels in Amman. While the intention of the bombers was to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Jordan, they succeeded only in uniting our peoples in grief and in hardening the resolve of the Jordanian people to resist extremism even in the face of terror.

In Iraq, Jordan has provided vital assistance to American forces serving there, and it has also been the host to thousands of Iraqi police recruits who have trained at a state-of-the-art facility outside Amman. As that program has wound down, Jordan has converted it for the training of Palestinian Authority security personnel as part of the security assistance program run by American General Keith Dayton. These Palestinian forces have been instrumental in helping to stabilize the West Bank and in keeping alive the hopes for a future two-state solution.

Over the past few years, Jordan has been burdened by hundreds of thousands of refugees from Iraq. A small, water-poor nation of only 6 million, Jordan's infrastructure and economy have been tested by the Iraqi refugees, with estimates of the total number generally ranging between 500,000 and 700,000. The influx of refugees has put enormous strain on the kingdom's education and health systems, and it has also caused widespread distortions in housing and energy prices.

Despite the enormous burdens that these refugees have placed on Jordan, the government has allowed them to remain in the country even as the situation in Iraq has become more stable. In recent months, a few of the refugees have begun to return home, but the vast majority remains, and most observers expect them to stay in Jordan for some time to come.

Especially vital has been the King's effort to reassert, on behalf of Muslims around the world, the true meaning and teachings of Islam. In 2004, he issued the Amman Message—an important step in combating al Qaeda's attempt to hijack one of the world's great religions in the name of hate. While America can work to eliminate the conditions that give rise to extremism, we must also rely on Muslim leaders to press the case that al Qaeda is a perversion of Islam and not a pure form of the religion that values human life and peace.

In a region roiled by conflict, characterized by poor governance and stifling economic mismanagement, Jordan has remained an island of stability and an example to its neighbors of a Middle Eastern nation that is seeking to create a peaceful and more prosperous life for its citizens even though it lacks the oil and natural gas that many of the other Arab States in the neighborhood enjoy.

Much work remains to be done, but King Abdullah and other senior government leaders are determined to build a better society for the Jordanian people. For that commitment and for six decades of friendship, I am proud to co-Chair the Congressional Friends of Jordan Caucus with my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and with the assistance of our terrific vice-Chairs, Mr. BAIRD and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and in reaffirming the broad ties between the United States and Jordan and in congratulating King Abdullah on the progress that he has made in his 10 years on the throne.

Again, many thanks to Chairman BERMAN.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCMAHON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 833, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 209) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Iranian hostage crisis, during which 52 United States citizens were held hostage for 444 days from November 4, 1979, to January 20, 1981, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 209

Whereas, in the face of internal political upheaval in Iran, the United States Government maintained a diplomatic presence in